are doing everything in their power to combat this dire disease. The supply of free medicines, the deputation of special medical officers and the opening of medical institutions during all hours of the day have been arranged and it is for the people to take adequate advantage of the help thus afforded.

31. Municipal Government.—Since the close of 1093, the rate-payers of the towns of Colachel, Attungal, Mavelikara, Changanachery and Vaikom have been granted the privilege of electing four out of the seven non-official members of the respective Committees, so that at present all the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State have a majority of their non-official members elected by the people. Non-official Presidents have been newly appointed for the Committees of Nagercoil and Mavelikara and a non-official Vice-President for the Committee of Kuzhittura. The system of compulsory vaccination has been extended to the towns of Kuzhittura, Vaikom, Parur and Tiruvalla. A set of rules has been passed for the regular inspection, by the Sanitary Commissioner, of the work of Town Improvement Committees in respect of matters relating to sanitation, vaccination and vital statistics. The new Municipal Bill, conferring considerably enhanced powers on Municipal Councils, has been considered in detail by the Legislative Council and is now awaiting final reading. When that enactment is placed on the statute book, ample opportunities will present themselves to the Municipalities to augment their resources and improve the moral and material condition of the people in the different towns. The question of the formation of Local Boards for the benefit of rural areas is also under the consideration of Government.

32. Medical Department.—Steps have been taken for the opening of new dispensaries at Taikattuseri and Cape Comorin, and a weekly branch dispensary has been opened at Santanpara in the High Range under the management of the Udumbanshola Medical Officer. The Fort Dispensary at Trivandrum has been raised to a hospital.

33. Department of Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has been thoroughly reorganised. The main features of the reorganisation are the revision of the curricula of studies in the Ayurveda Patasala on an up to date and scientific basis to suit modern requirements, the opening of a botanical garden for the cultivation of medicinal plants, and the establishment of an Ayurvedic Pharmacy and an Ayurvedic Hospital and Dispensary at Trivandrum. The Dispensary has been doing very useful work from the day of its opening on the 18th Karkadakam 1093, the number of out-patients treated during the first five months of 1094 reaching the high figure of 10,474. Till recently the Pharmacy merely supplied medicines for free distribution at the Dispensary, but arrangements have now been made for the sale of medicines to those who are willing to purchase them, the prices charged being cheap and intended to cover only the cost of preparation. The benefits of this system are fully appreciated by the public, as will be seen from the fact that during Vrischikam and Dhanu 1094, the first two months when it was in operation, medicines to the value of Rs. 448 were purchased from the Pharmacy.

EDUCATION.

34. General Statistics.—The number of recognised institutions in the State rose from 2,508 in 1092 to 2,828 in 1093 and their strength from 3,48,986 to 3,75,448, showing an increase of 320 schools and 26,462 scholars. On an average, there was one recognised school for every 2·5 square miles and 1,212 inhabitants, against 3·05 and 1,367 respectively in 1092. Private aided schools rose in number and strength from 1,264 and 1,19,280 to 1,394 and 1,35,697, and private unaided schools from 169 and 13,980 to 346 and 24,424 respectively. The non-departmental institutions thus increased in number by 21·4 per cent. and in strength by 20 per cent. As compared with these, the increase in the number of departmental schools from 1,075 to 1,088 was little more than nominal, while their strength showed a slight decline from 2,15,726 to 2,15,327. The increase in the number of private institutions and the steady accession to their strength tend to prove that the policy of the Government

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